

LONE WOLF AND CUB

子
連
水
狼

VOLUME 14

DAY OF THE
DEMONS

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA



子連水狼

LONE WOLF AND CUB

子と狼

story

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DAY OF THE DEMONS

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA

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V O L U M E

14

A NOTE TO READERS

Lone Wolf and Cub is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yurushi o* (please forgive us)!

LONE WOLF AND CUB



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the sixty-ninth



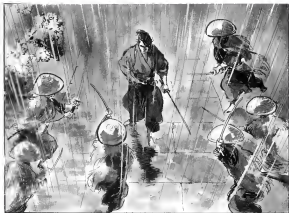
One Rainy Day



























O...
DRAW
YOU!

HIKOSAKA
OSABU!
HEAR YOUR
SAMU!



THROUGH FLOOD
AND THROUGH
DROUGHT, THROUGH
FOUR YEARS OF BAD
HARVESTS, YOU HAVE
THOUGHT ONLY OF HOW
TO GAIN YOUR POST
FOR PROMOTION
TO SAMURAI!

RAISING TAXES
TO OPPRESS
YOUR SUPERIORS!
PROFITING FROM
THE SUFFERING
OF THE
PEASANTRY!



YOUR
BRUTAL TITLES
HAVE PUSHED THE
PEASANTS TO
STARVATION!



THE CRIES OF THE
SUFFERING RING FROM
BORDER TO BORDER...
THE PEASANTS ARE ON
THE VERGE OF REVOLT!

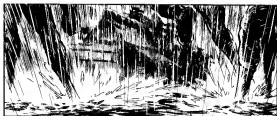


YET YOU
DELIBERATELY
OVERESTIMATE THE
HARVEST TO FATTEN
YOUR TAX COFFERS!
YOUR BRIBES DEFIES
BELIEF! YOU'RE
INCOMPETENT
TO GOVERN!









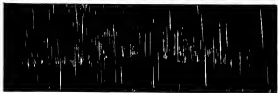
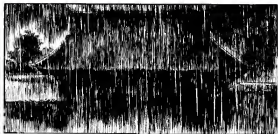














HALT!!
LISTEN
WELL!



YOU MUST
NOT ADVANCE ONE
STEP FURTHER! I HAVE
EXECUTED HIROSAKA
OSABE!



I, HARADA SEIJI,
KILLED HIM ALONE!
YOU HAD NOTHING
TO DO WITH IT!

THERE
WAS NO
NEED TO UNDER-
STAND!!



SH-
SEN!



SENSEI!
YOU CAN'T TAKE
THE BLAME ON
YOUR SHOULDERS
ALONE! WE MUST
SHARE IT...

YOU'RE
RIGHT!

PLEASE,
SENSEI!



WE'RE
GUILTY,
TOO!

SAYING
DON'T!

MY FAMILY AND I
HAVE SURVIVED ON THE
SELFLESS GENEROSITY
OF ALL OF YOU! IT WAS
TIME TO REPAY
THE DEBT!



WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING, SENSEI?
WE OWE YOU! YOU'VE
TAUGHT US TO READ AND
WRITE! YOU'VE INSTRUCTED
US IN ETIQUETTE AND
MANNERS. YOU'VE—



THE PEASANTS
FROM THE WEST,
THE SAMURAI
PROTECTS THE
PEASANTS! I
FOLLOW THE
WAY OF THE
SAMURAI!

IF I TAKE
ALL THE GUILT,
EVERYTHING IS LOST.
BUT IF YOU ARE
BLAMED, THEN
WHO WILL SAVE
THE PEASANT?





*HARADA SEEMED
YOU HAD MURDERED
DANICAN HIROSAKA DEAD.
HIS GUARDS AND OFFICIALS
YOUR CRIME IS GREAT, AND
BEYOND FORGIVENESS.
I SENTENCE YOU
TO DEATH.*



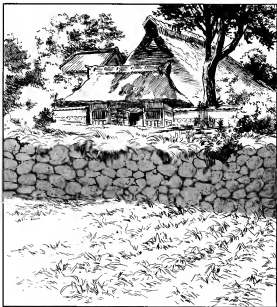
*YET IT IS
CLEAR THAT OFFICIAL
NEGLECTANCE ALSO CAUSED
THIS CATASTROPHE, AND
THAT DANICAN HIROSAKA
PERSONALLY ASSIGNED
HIS MANDATE*



*IN EXPOSING HIS
CRIMES, IN TAKING
RESPONSIBILITY FOR
WHAT YOU HAD DONE, IN
ACCEPTING THE PENALTY
FOR YOUR ACTIONS, UP
TO AND INCLUDING DEATH
FOR YOUR WIFE AND ONLY
SON, YOUR BEHAVIOR HAS
BEEN IN ALL WAYS
ADMIRED.*

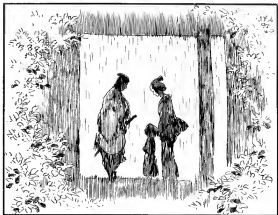












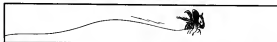


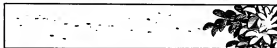


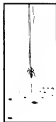








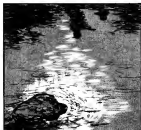
























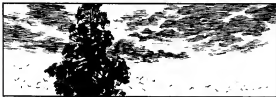












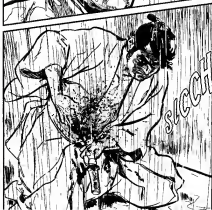


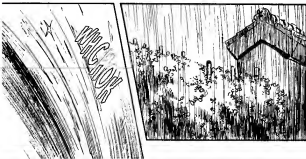


















the seventieth



O-Shichiri Man







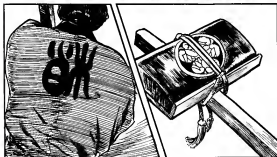


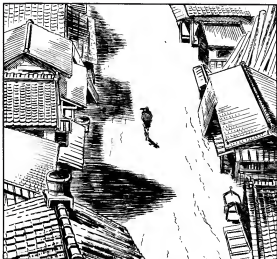


























THE *JO-SAMURAI* WERE SPECIAL RUNNERS WHO DELIVERED LETTERS WRITTEN BY THE LORD OF A DOMAIN. A FRESH RUNNER WOULD TAKE THE LETTER BOX EVERY *SHIMORI*, OR SEVEN *DO*, APPROXIMATELY SEVENTEEN MILES. THESE WERE LETTERS OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY, DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS FROM A *DAIMYO* TO THE *SHOGUN* HIMSELF.

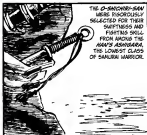
THE *SAMURAI* RUNNERS OF HIGH WERE THE MOST FAMOUS OF ALL. *SAMURAI* PASSING OFFICES MAINTAINED EVERY SEVEN BY ALONG THE *TOGAWA*, THE MAIN ROUTE FROM *EDO* TO *OSAKA*. THE RUNNERS THEMSELVES SALVOED HAVING THE HONORIFIC TITLE *JO-SAMURAI-SAMA*.





THERE WERE THIRTEEN *SAKAWA* FAMILIES ALONG THE TORONADO AS IT PASSED THROUGH KISHU—IN FIYA, BOYU, CHANA, ABU, MITSUKI, KIMAYA, AMIKO, YU, KUMAZU, KAKOMA, OKAWARA, KOWADA, AND KIMASAKI.

THE OFFICES WERE RUN BY A LANTERN BEARING THE HOLLYHOCK CREST OF THE TORONADO CLAN, AND HAD TWO *JI-SAKAWA-SAW* IN CONSTANT READINESS.



THE *JI-SAKAWA-SAW* WERE RIGOROUSLY SELECTED FOR THEIR SWIFTNESS AND FIGHTING SKILL FROM AMONG THE *SAWA*'S *ASHIGARA*, THE LOWEST CLASS OF SAMURAI WARRIOR.



THEY WERE GIVEN AN ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF RICE AND A TWO-HUNDRED *MONME* BONUS OVER AND ABOVE THE REGULAR *ASHIGARA* STIPEND.



MOREOVER, DESPITE THEIR LOW STATUS, THE *NUMBERS* WERE GRANTED A LIMITED RIGHT OF *KINROSHI* *JOHNA*, THE SAMURAI PRIVILEGE TO KILL WITHOUT QUESTION AN *JI-SAKAWA-SAW* COULD TAKE UP TO THREE LIVES TO GET THE RAIL THROUGH EVEN THE POLICE OF THE EIGHT STATES OF THE *SAWA*'S REGION WOULD CLEAR THE ROAD TO LET THEM PASS.

AFTER ALL, THE
O-SHONNEN-SAN
OF KISHI
CARRIED THE
CREST OF
THE SHOGUN
HIMSELF
ON THEIR
SHOULDERS.



RECENTLY, SOME
O-SHONNEN-SAN
JOINED THEIR
PELVISE.



IN TIME, WORD THAT
AN O-SHONNEN-SAN
WAS COMING COULD
CAUSE PANIC. TO AVOID
THE CURSE, DON'T TOUCH
THE IDOL...SO THE SAYING
GOSU AND MOGOSU, PEOPLE
WAITED BEHIND CLOSED
DOORS FOR THE
RUNNERS TO PASS.



THIS IS ONE
O-SHONNEN-SAN
OF KISHI—
TOMI JINSA.



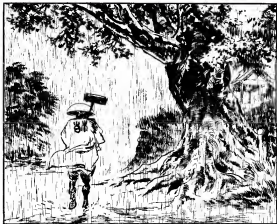




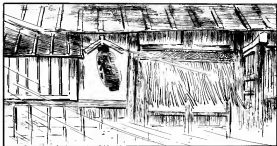














































I'M
TOM'S WIFE,
Q-TIGHT

I SAY "WIFE," BUT
HE ~~DISREGARD~~ HE
WHEN OUR CHILD DIED.
NOW I'M REDUCED TO
THIS—A MISERABLE
SERVING
WOMAN



THAT MAN,
TOM JONES, IS
DEDICATED
TO HIS JOB.



~~CONCERNED~~
WITH IT. AND
THAT'S WHY...



"...WHEN OUR
SON WAS BORN,
HE WAS ~~AWAY~~ ON
AWAY BUSINESS.



"SINCE JUST BEFORE
I GAVE BIRTH, HIS
WORKLOAD WAS
INCREASED
DRAMATICALLY.



"THERE IS SOME
KIND OF DISPUTE
IN THE AREA...



"...AND MORE AND
MORE MATTERS
TO DELIVER



"THREE DAYS AFTER
HE WAS BORN, OUR
SON FELL ILL. IT
WASN'T SERIOUS—
WITH PROPER CARE,
HE COULD HAVE
LIVED!



"I WENT TO THE
HIGHWAY WHERE
MY HUSBAND RANG...

"...AND ASKED
HER TO SEND
A DOCTOR

"THERE'S A DOCTOR
AT THE KASURA WAY
STATION FOR A
WOMAN ON FOOT,
A FULL DAY'S
JOURNEY.

"BUT HE COULD
GET THERE IN
JUST THREE
HOURS!"



"IT WAS EVEN
ON HIS MARY
AND YET..."



"HERE HE
COMES

"BE CAREFUL!
HE'S FURRY!"

"AND DON'T GET BLOOD
ON HIS COAT. ISATA HAS
TO IMPERSONATE HIM TO
GET THROUGH THE GATES.
BLOOD SPLATTER WILL
GIVE HIM AWAY.









"I MEAN, OF COURSE
HE HAD HIS DUTIES,
LOTS OF THEM, EVEN
I UNDERSTAND THAT
MUCH.



"THAT'S WHY I'D ALWAYS
WAITED, ALWAYS ENDURED,
ALL THOSE LONG DAYS AND
WEEKS WHEN HE DIDN'T
COME HOME.



"THAT WAS
OUR LIFE.

"BUT THIS WAS
DIFFERENT!

"HIS ONLY SON,
HIS OWN FLESH
AND BLOOD,
WAS DYING!





"SOMEONE ON DUTY, EVEN
A TOTAL STRANGER, EVEN
A ~~DAVING~~ ~~MAN~~ ~~SELF~~
WOULD STOP TO SAVE
A CHILD'S LIFE.



"I MEAN, THERE'S
ANYTHING MORE
IMPORTANT THAN
A HUMAN LIFE,
RIGHT?



"AND THIS
WAS HIS
OWN SON?"







"ALMOST...ALMOST
AS IF I HAD KILLED
OUR CHILD!



"AND ONE
MORE THING,
HE SAID: POST
THIS THE BODY.



"I BEGGED HIM...
AT LEAST GIVE
OUR SON A NAME!"



"AND THAT'S HOW IT
BEGAN. OUR BATTLE
WAS SAID NOW, AS HE
RAN THE HIGHWAY."









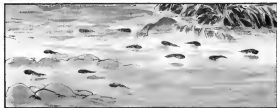
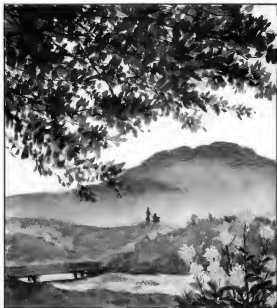


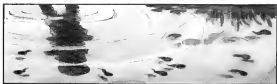
the seventy-first



The Kyūshū Road









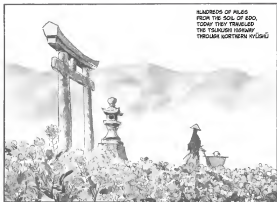
FATHER AND SON, THEY DRIFTED ACROSS
THE LAND. HOW MANY PRODS HAD SETTLED
UNDER THE STARLIGHT SINCE THEY'D BECOME
WANDERERS ON THEIR PERPETUAL QUEST...



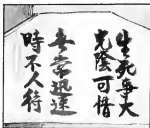




HUNDREDS OF PILGRIMS
FROM THE SOIL OF EDO,
TODAY THEY TRAVERSED
THE TOLUKEHI HIGHWAY
THROUGH NORTHERN KYŪSHŪ







THE
OX-HEADED
DEMON
CALL HIM
JIGUJI.



THE
HORSE-HEADED
DEMON
CALL HIM
KORYŪ.

TOGETHER,
THE SANGHAN
DEMONS OF
ARISHAN.



ARISHAN OF GOSOMARU
CALLS FORTH THE CURSE
OF DEATH, THE TALISMAN
OF DEFECTION, FORTUNE,
THE TALISMAN OF AFTERSW,
THE MARK OF THOSE WHO
WOULD SEE THEM BY LIFE
CUT SHORT.



KHONJ AL-SO
THESUP...
THE TALISMAN OF
MAYPOWADO!



ALL THOSE WHO WOULD
HAVE JOINED MOUP AND GUP
MURDER THEIR ENEMIES
POSTED THE *GOUMAGU*
ON THE GATES OF
ABANDONED TEMPLES.



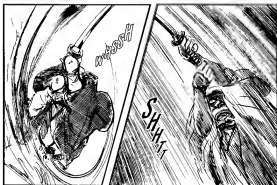
THEY CALLED OUT
TO THAT ILL-FATED
FATHER AND SON,
LIVING AT THE JUNCTION
OF RIVERS'S SWAMP,
THE SIX PATHS AND
THE FOUR LIVES.



BUT WHEN
THE ASSASSIN
LONG WOLF AND HIS
HANDS PUT UP
THE TALISHAN...





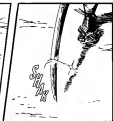








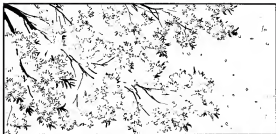




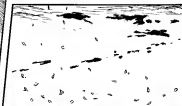
















BUT
WHY WOULD
JEDBOOM
HUNT ME...?

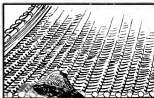
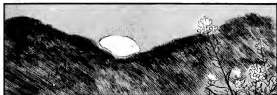


WHEN
THE ASSASSIN
LONG WOLF AND
CLUB HIMSELF
PUT UP THE
TALISMAN...



...IT WAS A
CHALLENGE--

--FROM ONE
ASSASSIN TO
ANOTHER









NO ARABIAN
SPEAKS THIS
KISS THE FOK-
BARBERS. ANYTIME...
THAT IS AN
ARABIAN?



THAT HE LIVES
IN ARABIA...
AT THE JUNCTION
OF THE SIX PATHS
AND THE FOUR
LIVES.

ONLY A BORN
DANGEROUS WERE
TO DIE IF YOU WOULD
LEAVE THE FEMALE.
THEN SPEAK YOUR
NAME AND DEED
AS A BARRON.



REMOVE
YOUR
ARABIC...

...AND
EXPLAIN
WHY WE
FIGHT?



WHAT
SAY YOU,
SARIS?
SARISMONY?





YOU SEE
THROUGH ME...
I SHOULD HAVE
EXPECTED NO LESS
FROM THE SHOGUN'S
EXECUTIONER.

I AM KOSUO
SARUITSU, SOGASAKI,
SPY/INSTRUCTOR
FOR KURODA ARAM.



YOU WOULD
AGREE TO LEAVE
THE TEMPLE
FOR A MORAL
POINT?



FIRST...
YOUR REASON
FOR A DUEL.



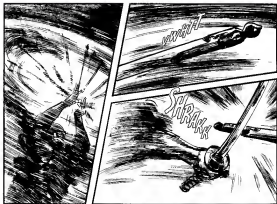
TO
TRY MYSELF
AGAINST YOUR
SWORD-ARM?

I
ACCEPT.























RY
THANKS.

THE WARRIOR CODE OF
THE KURODA CLAN ASSUMES
Masks WHEN WE PERFORM
ASSASSINATIONS FOR OUR
LORD. WE DEEM IT NECESSARY
TO SHOW AN UNKNOWN
FACE IN DEATH.



ALIVE,
WE FACE PAIN
AND DEATH WITH
EQUANIMITY. BUT
TO PRESERVE THAT
FACE ONCE WE'VE
BREATHED OUR
LAST...



WHY DOES
LORD KURODA
PURSUE
US?

WHY SACRIFICE
SUCH PRICELESS
ASSETS TO
ASSASSINATE
US?

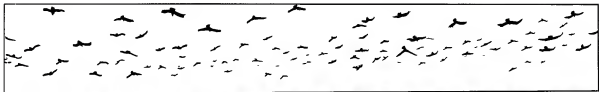


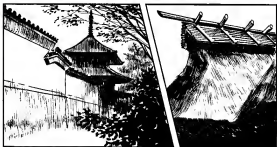
HEAR YOUR
ANSWER IN HIS
PRESENCE. SALUTE
SOMEONE IS BORN.
NONE SHALL
STOP YOU.



ASK
OUR LORD
HIMSELF...







FUKUKA CASTLE IN
CHIRAZON, KURODA AMM
(520,000 JPY)















THE *KARU*
CAN GET ME A
SUITABLE *AMM*
OUTSIDE KYUSHU,
AND NOMINATE ME
FOR *JOSE*

REYLOD
OF THE *DEA-KARU*
HAS THAT DEGREE
OF POWER AND
INFLUENCE



YOU'D *ALL* BE
EAGER TO CURRY
FAVOR WITH THE
KARU?



WHY NOT?
I'VE KNOWN ABOUT
THIS FELD OF YOURS.
I SOLVE IT, THEY
REWARD ME

THAT'S WHY
I SENT MY
ASSASSINS

TRIAL...

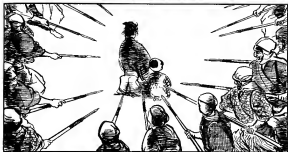
...WHY
DON'T US
ACCEPT
BENEFIT?



IT WAS A PROMISE...TO
SAKUTE SOKAMON HE
WAS A PILLAR OF THE
AMM. HE AGREED TO
KILL YOU, BUT ONLY IF I
PROMISED TO STOP
SENDING ASSASSINS
IF HE LOST.

I'VE
KEPT THAT
PROMISE















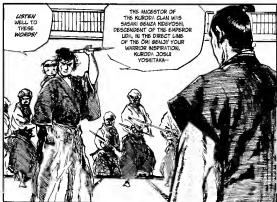
















A WARRIOR FAMILY
BEYOND COMPROMISE! HONORING
SHAMEFUL DISGRACING PLOTS
AND TRICKERY! VALUING
HONOR!

AND NOW? SOMEONE
FOR HIGH POSITION?
SURRENDERING YOURSELF
WITH THE CORRUPT FASHION
ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT
THEIR WEAKNESSES TO
MANIPULATE THE?



LORD KURODA
HAS BECOME THE
YAMOTO'S ADVERSARY
DOES BUT WHAT USE
IS THE ADVANCE? ONCE
IT'S CALLED THE
ARMY?

ARE YOU NOW
SO FRAGILE YOU MUST
GRIMACE TO THE FUTURE?
IT'S NOT MY CONCERN,
YET I ACCORD THE
KURODA AWARD!



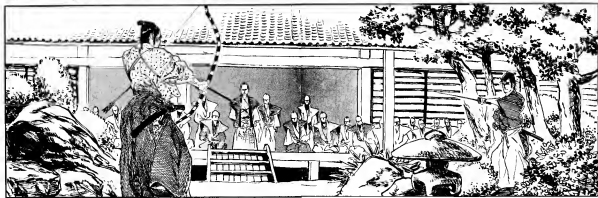


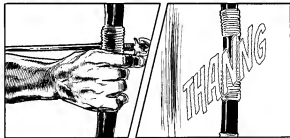


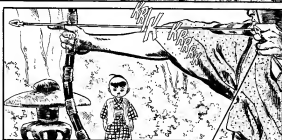




























BUT YOU
SAID YOU'D
KILL YOUR SON
AND CUT OPEN
YOUR OWN
STOMACH TO
PROTECT IT!
WHY??

A FAREWELL
OFFERING



W-WHAT?!



AN OFFERING TO
THOSE LOYAL VASSALS
WHO DIED AS ASSASSINS
FOR THEIR
LORD.



AL...



BUT
FIRST...ONE
QUESTION

AS YOUR
PLEASURE



EARLIER YOU MURDERED ME
AGAINST BECOMING A REBELLIOUS
DOG CHANGING THE VASSAL'S NAME.
YOU CALLED ME A COWARD FOR
TRYING TO EXPLOIT THEIR WEAKNESSES.
YOU SAID IT DISHONORED THE NAME
OF THE KURODA CLAN.

BUT WHAT
ABOUT YOUR
STEALING
THE YASU
LETTER?



USING YOUR ENEMY'S
WEAKNESSES TO ATTACK
HIM, AND SAVE YOUR
OWN LIVES?



DOES NOT THIS
OFFERING BRING
THE DEAD WITH YOUR
OWN CONSCIENCE?



YOU
CONTRADICT
YOURSELF,
DANAI ITTO!



FATHER AND SON,
WE LIVE IN AN EPOCH,
CROSSING NEITHER THE
SH. FATHER NOR THE
FOUR LIVES.

NOT SHAMURAI
NOT FOLLOWERS
OF SHAMO. NOT
HONORARY

















回状之参 全卯六月初日
 禁中陳儀行ワレ
 上卿、唐橋大納言兼侍卿
 奉行職事ハ鳥丸頭左中弁見貴
 弁ハ小河坊城在中弁俊昌ナリ
 陳儀林ノ勅録与宰相見重卿
 勅使トシ休見城ニ参向有
 宜旨ハ儀以別狀ニ報之如ク
 未座録
 他ニ格別事世ニ奉應ニ打過候
 京都所司代
 板倉伴守重昌殿





FLASH

THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN WITH PHOSPHORESCENT INK

回状に参る
 貴山 池田 幸八
 上師の遺徳大納言共
 奉行職事、馬次頭
 亦小河球次郎共并
 陣儀終、御禮有

I HAVE
ALREADY
ASCERTAINED
THAT MUCH.

SOME FORM
OF PHOSPHORESCENT
FUNGUS HAS BEEN GROWN AND
MIXED INTO THE INK. MOST SUCH
FUNGUS REPAIRS LIGHT, BUT THE
INGREDIENTS ADDED TO THIS MIXTURE
SEEM TO ABSORB IT, AND BECOME
A LIGHT SOURCE OF
THEIR OWN.



THE INK
ABSORBS
LIGHT BY DAY,
AND RELEASES IT
AGAIN IN THE DARK
AS GLOWING
LETTERS.

It is a very simple process,
and the ink is very easy to
use. It is a very simple process,
and the ink is very easy to
use. It is a very simple process,
and the ink is very easy to
use.

ADAM
YOU IMPRESS
ME, DOWN
TIT.



EVERY YEAR, AT THE SIXTH HOUR
ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, WE *FEIRAI DAWARO*,
BEGINNING WITH THE THREE *SANNO* CLANS, GO
TO EDO CASTLE TO OFFER OUR RESPECTS TO THE
SHOGUN'S FAMILY. AT THAT TIME, WE RECEIVE A BLOCK
OF *SENGI* INK IMPRINTED WITH THE HOLLYHOCK CREST OF
THE TOKUGAWA. IT IS THE *FEIRAI* WHO HAVE THAT INK,
AND, AS YOU HAVE FOUND, IT IS INK THAT GLOWS IN
THE DARK. ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN
THE *FEIRAI DAWARO* AND THE SHOGUN MUST BE
WRITTEN WITH IT. HOW LIKE THE KUNYO TO
COME UP WITH SUCH A SUBTLE TRICK!

ONE DAY I CHANGED
TO NOTICE THAT A
LETTER I HAD WRITTEN
WAS GLOWING IN THE
DARK. SURPRISED, I
INVESTIGATED
FURTHER.

UNFORTUNATELY,
THAT WASN'T OFFICIAL
CORRESPONDENCE,
AND THIS PROVED
NOTHING.

BUT THIS...
THIS IS DIRECT FROM
THE *AKOTO* SHOGUN TO
THE *SANNO*, AND IT
CONTAINS A CLUE THAT
EXPOSES A *DAIRI* SECRET...











IT IS SAID THAT
THE JODOKOMI SPIES
SEND AGENTS INTO EVERY
HOMI, SETTLING THEM
FOR JODOKOMI

THE DEDICATION OF THE
SATO-NO ANZAI PASSING
THEIR MISSION FROM FATHER TO
SON, SON TO GRANDSON WHO
WOULD SUSPECT A FAMILY THAT'S
LIVED THERE FOR DECADES, EVER
FOR CANTERBURY THEY PUT DOWN
THEIR ROOTS, GROWING, WITHERING,
PERISHING AGAIN LIKE THE
GRASS...SUCH IS YOUR
SATO-NO ANZAI



IMAGINE
SATO-NO YOU PUT
DOWN YOUR ROOTS
IN JODOKOMI HMM-
YOU'RE JODOKOMI
GRASS!



YOU HOLD
THE FRODO,
OUR FASHO
LETTER!



DARK
FRODO!









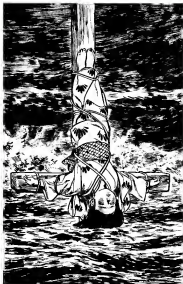






THIS YEAR, KURODA KARTANA,
LORD OF KURODA HARA, PASSED
AWAY OF A SUDDEN ILLNESS
SO THE RECORDS SAY...

the seventy-second



Day of the Demons





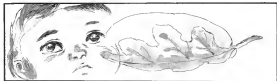


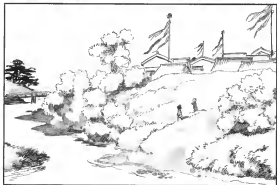
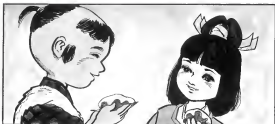






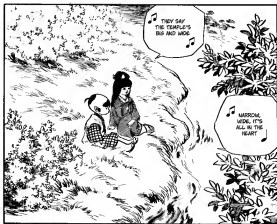
















FOLLOWING THE
SHIMAZU OFFENSE
OF 1637-38, THE
TOKUWANA SHOGUNATE
INTENSIFIED ITS CAM
ON THE CHRISTIANS
OF HAKSAGE AND
THE SURROUNDING
TERRITORIES.











WHA! THE
CLUNKERS IT—
CHRISTIAN!



OVER HERE,
SIR! MORE
EVIDENCE!

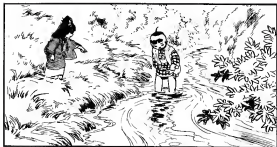


IN RESPONSE TO THE
DESPERATE OPPRESSION
AND PERSECUTION,
CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS
MADE A SHOW OF
RETURNING TO
BUDDHISM.



BUT THEY STILL
FOLLOWED THE
LORD'S WORD, AND
KEPT NAMES OF
MARY (MARU) AND
JOSEPH (THE VIRGIN
MARY), DISGUISED
AS BUDDHIST
DEITIES

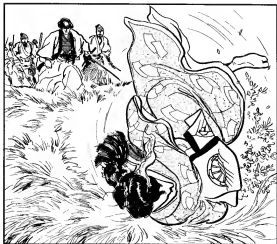




































FATHER!!



D-DADDY...



MAMA! THEY,
THEY...

I KNOW,
HONEY... I
KNOW.

YOUR MAMA,
SHE WENT TO
PARAKO TEMPLE
A FEW STEPS
BEFORE US.



WE'RE GOING
TOO, HONEY...
WE'RE GOING TO
PARAKO TEMPLE
TODAY!!

MAMA'S
WAITING
FOR US
THERE...



MAMA







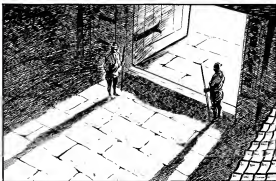




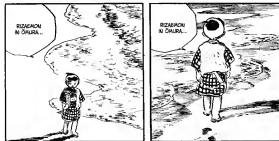
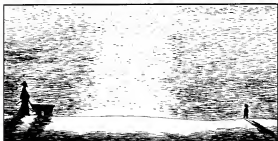
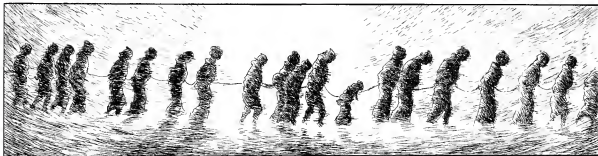
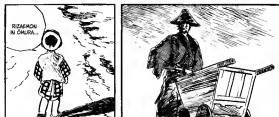
"YOU WANT TO
FINISH WHAT SHE
ASKED YOU?"

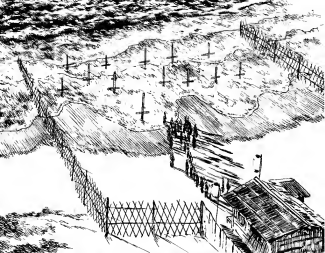
"TREASON...
IN CHINA..."



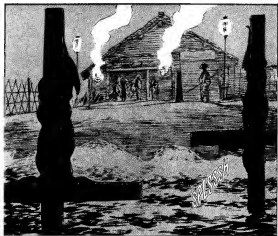






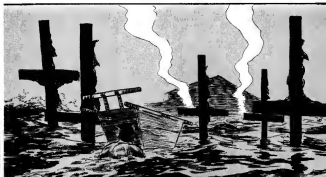


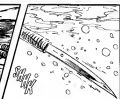




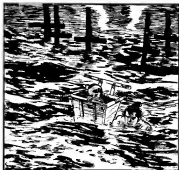


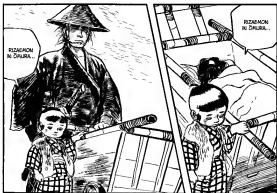












FANRO AND SHAKEL...THE
ANNUAL BOOM'S DAY FESTIVAL
IN EARLY MAY. ON THIS DAY,
FAMILIES PRAYED FOR A HAPPY
FUTURE...THEY DROVE THE
DEMONS FROM THEIR HOMES...
WHAT DEMONS DID THE
MADDENING FATHER AND SON
EXPERIENCE THIS DAY?

AND THE OTHER
CHILD...WHEELLESS IN
A WOODEN CART...

REZACKO...
IN CALIFORNIA...

LEARN WOLF AND CUB BOOM FORTUNE: THE END
TO BE CONTINUED

GLOSSARY

bushi

A samurai. A member of the warrior class.

daikan

The primary local representative of the shōgunate in territories outside of the capital of Edo. The Daikan and his staff collected taxes owed to Edo, and oversaw public works, agricultural, and other projects administered by the central government.

daimyō

A feudal lord.

fudai

The *fudai* were *daimyō* who supported Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first Tokugawa shōgun, even before the 1600 Battle of Sekigahara that established his reign. Kuroda Yoshitaka, one of the rare Christian *daimyō*, was a trusted advisor to Tokugawa Ieyasu's rival, Toyotomi Hideyoshi. But by the time of Sekigahara, Yoshitaka's son and heir Nagamasa had allied himself with Ieyasu. He was rewarded for his loyalty in the campaigns with sovereignty over Fukusaka-jin in northern Kyūshū, also known as Kuroda-jin.

go-yō

Official business. As a lantern carried by the officers of the *daikan* magistrate, the equivalent of today's national police, or as the shout of the police apprehending a criminal, "go-yō" was one of the most dreaded words in the world of Edo-period's criminal elements.

gundai

Commissioner. Its areas administered directly by the shōgunate rather than by a local *hain*, the *daikan* magistrate was superseded by the *gundai*, who performed the taxation and law-enforcement duties of the *daikan* but over a larger territory.

han

A feudal domain.

ikki

A peasant revolt. Japan's downtrodden peasants had almost no recourse in the Edo period. Peasants could travel to Edo to petition the government for relief, but the emissaries and their families would be put to death for their insolence, even when their pleas were accepted. No wonder then that the peasants frequently took matters into their own hands.

kaimyō

Buddhist name, given by a priest at death so the deceased can enter paradise. A person's name in life is their *nakemyō*.

kōgi kaishakunin

The shōgun's own sword, who performed executions ordered by the shōgun.

koku

A bale of rice. The traditional measure of a *han*'s wealth, a measure of its agricultural land and productivity.

menboshi

A face guard, usually worn with a full suit of armor, both for protection and to intimidate one's enemy.

meifumado

The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation.

meishu

A village chieftain. In Edo Japan, a select handful of *meishu* were assigned official duties by the *machibugyō* (Edo city commissioner) and local *daikan* (magistrate). Peasants were forbidden to bear arms and had no family names, but these select few were given special dispensation to wear a sword and pass down their family name.

oku-sama

Term of respect for a wife.

Paradise

Paradise. The Jesuit missionary Francis Xavier brought Christianity to Japan in 1549, only six years after the first Portuguese traders reached the islands. The religion spread through the southern island of Kyūshū, converting an estimated three hundred thousand believers, and even six *daimyō*. Much of the terminology of early Japanese Christianity like *Paradise*, came from Portuguese. In 1587, alarmed by the growing *kirishitan* (Christian) influence in southern Japan and reports of western colonization in other parts of Asia, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the first unifier of Japan, ordered the missionaries out. Twenty-six Christians were crucified in Nagasaki in 1597. After Tokugawa Ieyasu defeated Hideyoshi's son in battle at Sekigahara in 1600 and founded the Tokugawa Shogunate, the persecution of Christians intensified. Fifty-one believers in the southern port city of Nagasaki were killed in 1622, and in time more than three thousand would be tortured to death. The Japanese Inquisition had begun in earnest.

ri

Old unit of measurement. Approximately 4 kilometers (2.5 miles).

rōnin

A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves." Members of the samurai caste who have lost their masters through the dissolution of *hans*, expulsion for misbehavior, or other reasons. Prohibited from working as farmers or merchants under the strict Confucian caste system imposed by the Tokugawa shōgunate, many impoverished *rōnin* became "hired guns" for whom the code of the samurai was nothing but empty words.

ryō

A gold piece, worth 60 *monme*.

Sankyō

Three branches of the Tokugawa clan, not in the immediate line of succession.

Setokaidō

Literally, "Land of the Western" Sea. Archaic name for today's Kyūshū.

Shimabara uprising

A popular revolt in the Amakusa Islands near Nagasaki in 1637. It quickly became a Christian uprising under the messianic leader Shimabara Jintō. A shogunate army took Shimabara castle and massacred the rebels in 1638.

Shizume han

A *han* that anchored the Tokugawa presence in often rebellious Kyūshū. The Kuroda led the army that first suppressed Kyūshū's unruly warlords.

shōya

The senior peasant leader entrusted with local administration by the local *daikan*. See *oversher*.

KAZUO KOIKE

Though widely respected as a powerful writer of graphic fiction, Kazuo Koike has spent a lifetime reaching beyond the bounds of the comics medium. Aside from co-creating and writing the successful *Love Wolf and Cub* and *Crying Freeman* manga, Koike has hosted television programs; founded a golf magazine; produced movies; written popular fiction, poetry, and screenplays; and mentored some of Japan's best manga talents.

Love Wolf and Cub was first serialized in Japan in 1970 (under the title *Kozure Ōkami*) in *Manga Action* magazine and continued its hugely popular run for many years, being collected as the stories were published, and repainted worldwide. Koike collected numerous awards for his work on the series throughout the next decade. Starting in 1973, Koike adapted the popular manga into a series of six films, the *Baby Cart Assassin* saga, garnering widespread commercial success and critical acclaim for his screenwriting.

This wasn't Koike's only foray into film and video. In 1996, *Crying Freeman*, the manga Koike created with artist Ryōichi Ikegami, was

produced in Hollywood and released to commercial success in Europe and is currently awaiting release in America.

And to give something back to the medium that gave him so much, Koike started the *Gekiga Senjuku*, a college course aimed at helping talented writers and artists — such as *Ranma 1/2* creator Rumiko Takahashi — break into the comics field.

The driving focus of Koike's narrative is character development, and his commitment to character is clear: "Comics are carried by characters. If a character is well created, the comic becomes a hit." Kazuo Koike's continued success in comics and literature has proven this philosophy true.



GOSEKI KOJIMA

Goseki Kojima was born on November 3, 1928, the very same day as the godfather of Japanese comics, Osamu Tezuka. While just out of junior high school, the self-taught Kojima began painting advertising posters for movie theaters to pay his bills.

In 1950, Kojima moved to Tokyo, where the postwar devastation had given rise to special manga forms for audiences too poor to buy the new manga magazines. Kojima created art for *kawari-akibari*, or “paper-play” narrators, who would use manga story sheets to present narrated street plays. Kojima moved on to creating works for the *kashi-ka* market, bookstores that rented out books, magazines, and manga to mostly low-income readers. He soon became highly popular among *kashi-ka* readers.

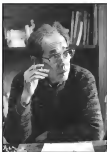
In 1967, Kojima broke into the magazine market with his series *Dofinki*. As the manga magazine market grew and diversified, he turned out a steady stream of popular series.

In 1970, in collaboration with Kazuo Koike, Kojima began the work that would seal his reputation, *Goemon*

Okami (*Law Wolf and Gosh*). Before long the story had become a gigantic hit, eventually spinning off a television series, six motion pictures, and even theme song records. Koike and Kojima were soon dubbed the “golden duo” and produced success after success on their way to the pinnacle of the manga world.

When *Manga Japan* magazine was launched in 1994, Kojima was asked to serve as consultant, and he helped train the next generation of manga artists.

In his final years, Kojima turned to creating original graphic novels based on the movies of his favorite director, Akira Kurosawa. Kojima passed away on January 5, 2000 at the age of 71.





As the flames draw nearer, the fire gets hotter. Ronin assassin Ogiami Ito seeks to learn what's written on the secret messages from the corrupt Yagyu clan to the Shogun and leaves a river of blood in his path. Elsewhere, a shamed woman attempts to force her husband to name his own child, but his job and honor stand in the way. Little cub Daigoro makes a new friend in another samurai fated to commit *seppuku* — ritual suicide — and defends the honor of a young playmate. The world keeps turning as the Lone Wolf and his Cub wander the land seeking revenge and answers, the questions to which are written in blood and glowing ink.

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